

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02545 051246Z

44

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 SAB-01 IO-03 PRS-01 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-03 /043 W

----- 064906

P R 051215Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3894

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2545

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJECT: YOST-ASAD MEETING

1. PRESIDENT ASAD RECEIVED FORMER US AMBASSADOR CHARLES YOST FOR ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES JULY 3. ASAD GREETED YOST WARMLY, SAYING HE WELL AWARE EFFORTS YOST HAD EXERTED DURING HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO CREATE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF FACTORS UNDERLYING MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND HE WAS HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM BACK TO DAMASCUS.

2. PRESIDENT CONFINED HIS OBSERVATIONS TO GENERALITIES, DISCUSSING ISRAELI IMPOSITION OF PRECONDITIONAL TO PROCEEDING TOWARDS PEACE, HIS OWN PERCEPTION OF CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN US AND ZIONIYH INTERESTS, INCREASED TECHNOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL LEVELS IN ARAB WORLD AND RAPID PROGRESS OF ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. PRESIDENT SHARPLY CRITICIZED ISRAEL FOR TRYING TO JUSTIFY ITS OCCUPATION OF ARAB LANDS IN NAME OF ISRAEL  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02545 051246Z

SECURITY. IF THESE ISRAELI ARGUMENTS, WHICH CONSTITUTE PRE-  
CONDITIONS TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, ARE ACCEPTED,  
WORLD WOULD BECOME A JUNGLE. ISRAELI PROPOSITIONS  
AMOUNT TO DEMAND THAT ARAB WORLD "ACCEPT SURRENDER AND CALL  
IT PEACE." PRESIDENT PREDICTED THAT TIME WILL COME,  
"PERHAPS SHORTLY," WHEN EVERY AMERICAN WILL

REALIZE US  
INTERESTS ARE IN CLEAR CON-  
FLICT WITH THOSE OF ZIONIST  
MOVEMENT AND THE US WILL RID ITSELF OF ZIONIST INFLUENCE.

4. PRESIDENT AFFIRMED THAT TIME IS RUNNING AGAINST ISRAEL  
AND ISRAELIS MUST EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE  
AND ELIMINATE THE CAUSES FOR ARAB HATRED OF THEM BY IMPLE-  
MENTING APPLICABLE UN RESOLUTIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT  
"WE SYRIANS WILL NEITHER GIVE UP ONE FINGER OF LAND  
OCCUPIED IN 1967 NOR ABANDON THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS."

5. YOST RESPONDED THAT HE WISHED ASSURE ASAD ON BASIS  
OF MANY YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS HE PERSONALLY  
HAD NEVER SEEN AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEVOTE THEMSELVES MORE VIGOROUSLY TO THE CAUSE OF A JUST  
PEACE IN THE AREA. HE SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF THE  
GOOD WILL AND DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRE-  
TARY KISSINGER TO AVOID STALEMATE AND TO PROCEED BY WHATEVER  
TACTIC MIGHT SEEM APPROPRIATE AND PRODUCTIVE FOR THE SADE  
OF ACHIEVING PEACE. HE AGREED WITH ASAD THAT ISRAELIS  
SERIOUSLY MISCALCULATE IN THINKING TIME IS IN THEIR  
FAVOR BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR "OUR ARAB  
FRIENDS TO HELP IN PERSUADING US AND ISRAELI OPINION THAT  
IF ISRAEL DOES WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES THE  
STATE OF ISRAEL WILL BE SECURE." NEITHER THE US PEOPLE AS  
A WHOLE NOR THE ISRAELIS WERE YET PERSUADED OF THIS  
PROPOSITION.

6. ASAD CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE WELCOMED  
AMERICAN CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS TO SYRIA IN RECENT MONTHS  
BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE BASIS FOR THE LOGIC OF SOME  
AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN THAT ARABS SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02545 051246Z

SURRENDER THEIR LAND. HE SAID HE ACCEPTED THAT THE PRESI-  
DENT AND SECRETARY WERE WORKING HARD FOR A JUST PEACE  
BUT HE WAS STRUCK BY THE MANY OBSTACLES THEY FACED.

7. IN TAKING LEAVE YOST SAID HE HOPED THAT AMBASSADOR  
MURPHY WOULD ENJOY A LONGER TOUR IN DAMASCUS THAN HIS OWN  
WHICH HAD BEEN CUT SHORT IN 1958 BY SYRIA'S DECISION TO  
JOIN IN CREATION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC. ASAD SMILINGLY REPLIED

THAT HE SAW NO GROUNDS FOR CONCERN AS THE NEXT ACHIEVEMENT  
OF ARAB UNITY MIGHT FIND DAMASCUS AS ITS CAPITAL.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC02545  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750233-0135  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacvfo.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** YOST-ASAD MEETING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, XF, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (YOST, CHARLES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006